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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, THAN VINH

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2187

MAIL DATE

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/519,437	Applicant(s) DENG ET AL.	
	Examiner Than Nguyen	Art Unit 2187	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 March 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 26-41 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 26-41 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 3/19/09 has been entered.

This is a response to the amendment, filed 2/10/09.

2. Claims 26-41 are pending.

Response to Amendment/Arguments

3. Applicant has amended the claims. The amended claims are addressed below. All previous objection/rejection not indicated below are withdrawn.

4. Applicant's arguments filed 2/7/08 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

5. The Examiner maintains the objection to the title of the invention. Applicant's title is vague, at best, and does not clearly summarize the invention. If Applicant is unwilling to change the title to one more fitting (or as suggested by the Examiner), the Examiner will modify it to a more descriptive title upon allowance.

6. Applicant argues "the present invention is able to provide a module for indicating the indication information stored in the indication information storage region in the semiconductor storage apparatus without the assistance of a computer system for 1) identify the legitimate holder of the semiconductor storage apparatus before the storage data content is revealed, 2) to

Art Unit: 2187

clearly indicate if the data is being read and/or written to the semiconductor storage apparatus, and 3) to eliminate any unknown information in the semiconductor storage apparatus by having a self-contained rechargeable power source module for independently providing power to the semiconductor storage apparatus.” This argument is not persuasive and irrelevant since the claimed invention does not claim any of the above “terms”. Applicant’s arguments should focus only claimed limitations of the invention and nothing else.

7. Applicant argues that the computer system of Hirota does not correspond to the claimed semiconductor storage apparatus. This argument is not persuasive. An invention is defined by its limitations. In this case, Applicant's semiconductor storage apparatus (claim 26) is defined by the limitations in the claim(s). A method claim is defined by steps performed in the method. The claimed semiconductor storage apparatus, as claimed, is met by Hirota’s computer/portable player because Hirota’s computer/portable player contains all of the claimed limitations of the claimed semiconductor storage apparatus. Therefore, Hirota’s computer/portable-player corresponds to Applicant’s claimed semiconductor storage apparatus. Applicant should review the claims for the invention’s scope.

8. Applicant argues that Hirota does not teach a self-contained rechargeable [claim 26] power-source. This argument is not persuasive. Although Hirota does not specifically mention using a self-contained rechargeable power source, Hirota’s computer is a laptop/portable media player which conventionally are operated using rechargeable batteries. Nevertheless, the Examiner introduces new support to indicate that using rechargeable batteries in portable devices is common and would be obvious to one skilled in the art.

Art Unit: 2187

9. Applicant argues that Hirota does not teach the information indication module. Applicant should note that the claim does not further define what the information indication module represents, only that it indicates information/data. Therefore, the Examiner will use the broadest interpretation available to define it. For purpose of examination, the Examiner broadly interprets this limitation as any element that can store information and/or present data/information (display 103, 203; speaker 106; 9/37-56; Fig. 1-4). If Applicant wants to more clearly define the invention, Applicant must further limit the claim.

10. As to claim 31, Applicant argues that Hirota does not teach at least one of a display component, an acoustic component and a vibration component. Hirota's entire system/apparatus (computer system, media player; Fig. 2-4) reads upon Applicant's semiconductor storage apparatus. Since Hirota teaches a display (103,203) and speaker (106) coupled to the system, this claim's limitations are met.

Specification

11. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

The following title is suggested: Method and Apparatus For Accessing an Encrypted Memory Card.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

12. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Art Unit: 2187

13. Claims 35-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

14. Claim 35 recites the limitation "indicating **the information**" in line 19. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Which information is Applicant referring to. There's only antecedent basis for indication information.

15. Claims 36-41 are rejected for incorporating the error of claim 35.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

16. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

17. Claims 26-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirota et al (US 6,606,707) in view of Hamamoto et al (US 6,282,611).

As to claim 26:

18. Hirota teaches a semiconductor storage apparatus (computer system or portable player + memory card; Fig. 2-4) for realizing information indication, comprising: a power source module providing power to the semiconductor storage apparatus (power source VDD; Fig. 5; 10/6-10); a controller module having a firmware for realizing the information indication and data access (command control unit 322; 10/66-11/10); an interface module (interface; USB/ATA/SCSI/network; 8/44; 9/39-42; 12/25-30; Fig. 3-4; a semiconductor storage medium module having a indication information storage region for storing indication information (flash

Art Unit: 2187

memory 109 storing data; Fig. 2-4); and an information indication module to indicate the information (display/transmit data; display 103, 203; speaker 106; 9/37-56; Fig. 1-4), wherein the controller module, the interface module, the semiconductor storage medium module, and the information indication module are electrically connected to each other (Fig. 3-5). Hirota does not specifically teach the power source being self-contained and rechargeable. He does suggest the idea of the computer/player being portable, which would require a self-contained power source since he teaches using a laptop and portable media player (Fig. 1-3). It is well-known in the art to implement memory storage devices with rechargeable batteries so that they can be self-powered and independent. Hamamoto et al teaches a memory card that includes a rechargeable battery as a power source so it could operate independently of a connected power source. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skills in the art, at the time of the invention, to use Hamamoto's teaching to implement Hirota's storage medium with a self-contained and rechargeable battery so that the memory storage device can operate independently of connected power source.

As to claim 27:

19. Hirota teaches the firmware supports the password verification of the indication information storage region (password authentication; 8/12-30).

As to claim 28:

20. Hirota teaches the indication information storage region is provided with an independent or universal encryption/decryption module, and the encryption/decryption module encrypts the

Art Unit: 2187

data to be stored in the indication information storage region, and decrypts the data read from the indication information storage region (encryption/decryption circuit 327; 11/50-64).

As to claim 29:

21. Hirota teaches the interface module is one of a USB interface, IEEE 1394 interface, Bluetooth interface, IrDA infrared interface, HomeRF interface, IEEE802.11a interface, IEEE802.11 b interface, wire wide area/local area network interface, and wireless wide area/local area network interface (USB 215; 8/44; 9/39-42; Fig .3-4; network; 1/54; 16/44).

As to claim 30:

22. Hirota teaches the medium used by the semiconductor storage medium module is one of a flash memory DRAM, EEPROM, SRAM, FRAM, MRAM, and MILLIPEDE (flash memory; 10/6, 18-20).

As to claim 31:

23. Hirota teaches the information indication module comprises at least one of a display component, an acoustic component and a vibration component (display 103, 203; speaker 106; 9/37-56; Fig. 3-4).

As to claim 32:

24. Hirota teaches the display component is one of a liquid crystal display, light-emitting diode matrix display, field emission display and organic-electroluminescence (OEL) display; and

Art Unit: 2187

the acoustic generating component is one of a speaker, buzzer and crystal acoustic generator (LCD 203; 9/37-40; speaker 106; 9/37-56).

As to claim 33:

25. Hirota teaches the power source module further comprising: at least one of a voltage adapter circuit (voltage adapter/reducer to operate memory card); and a self-contained power source having a power control switch, wherein the self-contained power source is one of a PV cell, a primary cell, and a rechargeable cell (power source/battery of computer/portable player 203; 8/35-67).

As to claim 34:

26. Hirota teaches a manual control component for setting the information indication, wherein the manual control component is used to perform the manual control of the information indication (generate password; 14/54-55).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

27. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

28. Claims 35-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hirota et al (US 6,606,707).

Art Unit: 2187

As to claim 35:

29. Hirota teaches a method for realizing information indication *in a semiconductor storage apparatus (Also see response to claim 26) comprising a power source module providing power to the semiconductor storage apparatus; a controller module having a firmware for realizing the information indication and data access; an interface module; a semiconductor storage medium module having a indication information storage region for storing indication information; and an information indication module, wherein the controller module, the interface module, the semiconductor storage medium module, and the information indication module are electrically connected to each other, the method **comprising**: performing data access operation of the indication information storage region and the information indication (request access); verifying the password of the indication information storage region according to the predetermined setting (authenticate password), and after the step of verifying the password, obtaining the necessary indication information from the indication information storage region (encrypt/decrypt data based on authentication); and controlling the information indication module to perform the information indication (display/access data) based on the content of the obtained indication information(request access, authenticate password, encrypt/decrypt data; display/access data; S701-707; S801-809; Fig. 9-10; 11/10-64; 12/21-24;14/39-16/35).*

As to claim 36:

30. Hirota teaches writing the necessary indication information into the indication information storage region after verifying the password (write key/password data into authentication area; 12/21-24; 13/24-28; 14/60-65; 15/45-54).

Art Unit: 2187

As to claim 37:

31. Hirota teaches the operational mode of the information indication module and the indication information stored in the indication information storage region is defined and modified by the information indication storage region setting software running in the data processing system (data in authentication area defines if access mode is restricted/unrestricted; 12/21-24; 13/24-28; 14/60-65; 15/45-54).

As to claim 38,39,40:

32. Hirota teaches the indication information comprises static information and dynamic information, wherein the static information comprises the user's information, device information and storage information (user information 427; medium ID 341; master key; 425; Fig. 6,9,10).

As to claim 41:

33. Hirota teaches the indication information storage region is provided with an independent or universal encryption/decryption module, and the encryption/decryption module encrypts the data to be stored in the indication information storage region, and decrypts the data read from the indication information storage region (encryption/decryption circuit 327; 11/50-64).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Than Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-4198. The examiner can normally be reached on 8am-3pm M-F.

Art Unit: 2187

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Donald Sparks can be reached on (571) 272-4201. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Than Nguyen/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2187

Than Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2187